



# The Rhumb Line

## Maine Maritime Museum

Winter 2002

*Celebrating Our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1962-2002*

Number 32

## Looking back over Forty Years

Anne Witty, Curator & Nathan Lipfert, Library Director

(Please turn to Center Section for complete article)

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The Museum's first displays opened in this Bath storefront (corner of Centre and Water Streets) on July 1, 1964.

### MAINE MARITIME MUSEUM

243 Washington Street, Bath, Maine 04530

*Our Mission is to collect, preserve and interpret materials relating to the maritime history of Maine and to promote an understanding and appreciation thereof.*

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Bath, ME 04530  
Permit No. 10



# From The Chart Table

## Forty years.

The Museum's predecessor organization was formed forty years ago.

Seven individuals got together to fund Mark Hennessy's writing of a definitive history of the Kennebec River's maritime heritage - a magnificent shipbuilding story. Two years later the Marine Research Society of Bath also decided to begin a collection and to open a small museum, which it did in a storefront at 38 Centre Street.

In the ensuing years, Maine Maritime Museum grew to become a membership institution that today holds significant collections, provides public programs for tens of thousands of people annually, maintains a priceless historic site, publishes, hosts symposia, employs 20+ professionals, attracts nearly 200 active volunteers and is a valuable regional cultural resource.

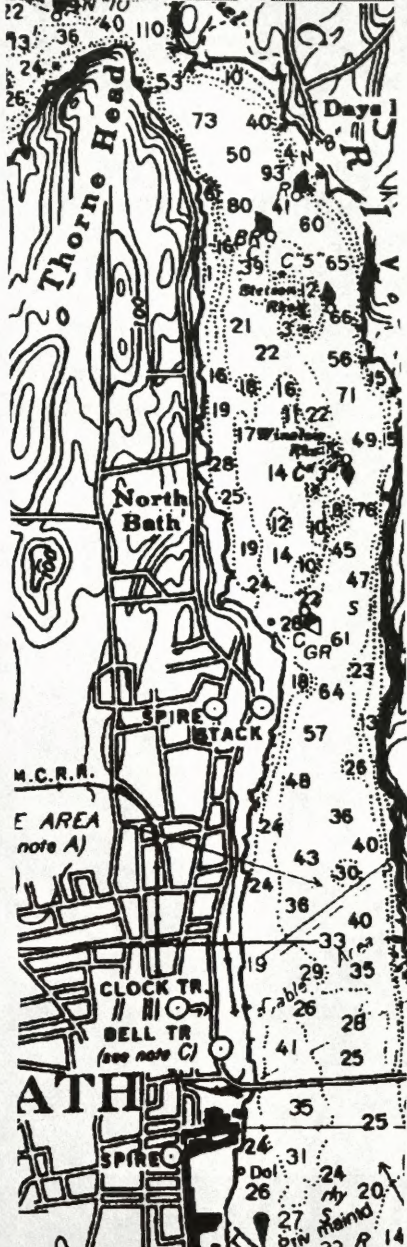
In these pages you will find a timeline of the Museum's journey. Some who have been associated with us for a while - even from the beginning - will no doubt enjoy being reminded of past events. Others will or should marvel at the perseverance of our predecessors. Seeing Charlie Morgan's photographs of the Percy & Small Shipyard, taken in the 1930s, makes one marvel at the imagination and the industriousness of the Museum's founders.

Of course those of us on watch today (staff, trustees, volunteers supported by generous members and corporate partners) greatly feel the pressure of continuing to strive for excellence and, in all modesty, I think we do an admirable job. With the completion of the lion's share of our capital projects and with our prospects as bright as ever, we now turn to the business of updating our strategic view.

The museum field is evolving like all others. Tomorrow's activities and ways of doing business must be different from today's. There is fierce competition for our audience's time and attention from a myriad of sources. It is our job to earn our share of those resources while remaining true to our industry's best practices and to our founders' hopes and aspirations.

Tom

Thomas R. Wilcox, Jr.  
Executive Director



Thanks to Trustee Capt. Doug Lee for making the prints, and to Dr. Bruce Nelson of Portland for providing access to his post card collection, we provide this lovely image of the steamer *Nellie G.* setting out from or arriving at her float in Boothbay Harbor in the 1920. Built in 1895 for Amasa Williams of Bowdoinham by N.T. Hanson at Woolwich, *Nellie G.* was the beloved ferry to Squirrel Island from 1902 until 1928. In this pleasant summer scene, the 4-mast schooner *Zebedee E. Cliff* is taking shape in the background at the East Coast Ship Company's yard and will be launched in November. At 206' length by 40.7' beam by 22.6' depth of hold and measuring 1,361 gross tons, she was the largest 4 master built on these ways during WWI.

**The Rhumb Line**      Number 32      Winter 2002  
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Issue Editor: Linda MacMillan  
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Composing/Printing: *The Times Record*

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# WELCOME ABOARD

New Members  
August 2002 – October 2002

Michael Ambler  
James Ananis  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Kemler Appell  
Gary A. Arnold  
Mrs. Donald R. Atkin  
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Paul L. Bradley  
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James M. and Beth K. Chance  
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Kaye Edmonds  
Rex and Cynthia Edmonds  
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**Thank You!**

**Don't Forget  
Holiday Gift Memberships**

## Maine Maritime Museum Gift Memberships are Great for the Holidays

A Holiday Gift Membership offers friends and family a full year of free admission, 10% discount in the Museum Store and guest admissions, program discounts, a year's subscription to *The Rhumb Line* and special Member event invitations.

**Stop by or call us for a Holiday Card with a  
Gift Membership for everyone on your list!**

207-443-1316 x 327

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# Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1962-2002

Anne Witty, Curator & Nathan Lipfert, Library Director

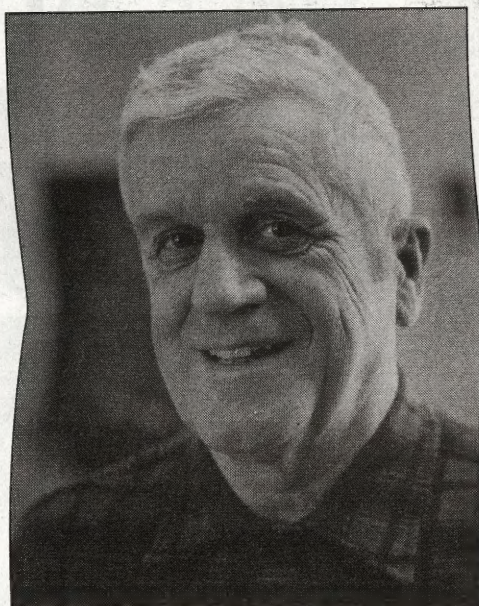
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The Museum's first displays opened in this Bath storefront (corner of Centre and Water Streets) on July 1, 1964.



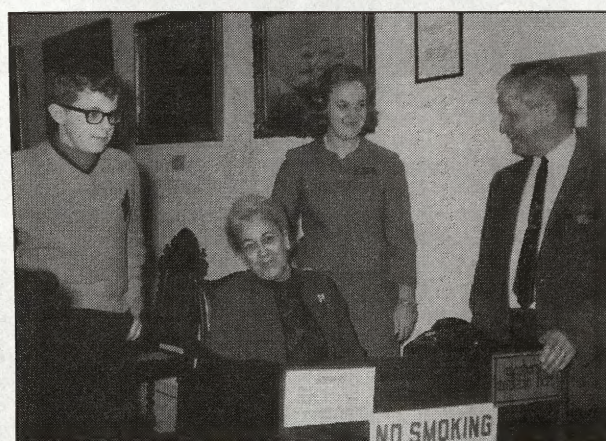
Harold E. Brown, the first paid employee of the Bath Marine Museum, served as curator from 1965 to 1974, and as curator emeritus from then until 1996.



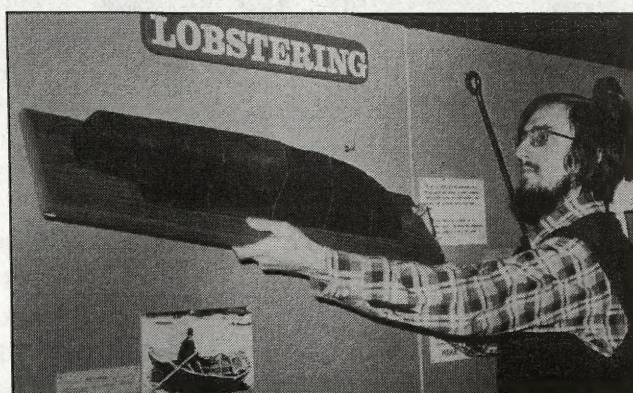
Enthusiasm for the new Museum links early staffers/volunteers (left to right) Mary Mussenden, Frank Givin, Charlie Burden, Priscilla Montgomery, and Bill Mussenden in their exhibit and collecting endeavors at Sewall House.



Sewall House, at 963 Washington Street, was donated to the Society by Mrs. Walter Edge in 1965. Later that year the Museum opened 30 rooms of exhibits.



Welcome to Sewall House! Ed Mosher, Doris Reinhold, Elena Drake, and Harold Brown congregate at the admissions desk, ca. 1965.



Assistant Curator Nathan Lipfert hangs a half-model for the lobstering exhibit in the basement room of Sewall House, ca. 1975. Today, Mr. Lipfert is the Museum's Library Director.



# Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1962-2002

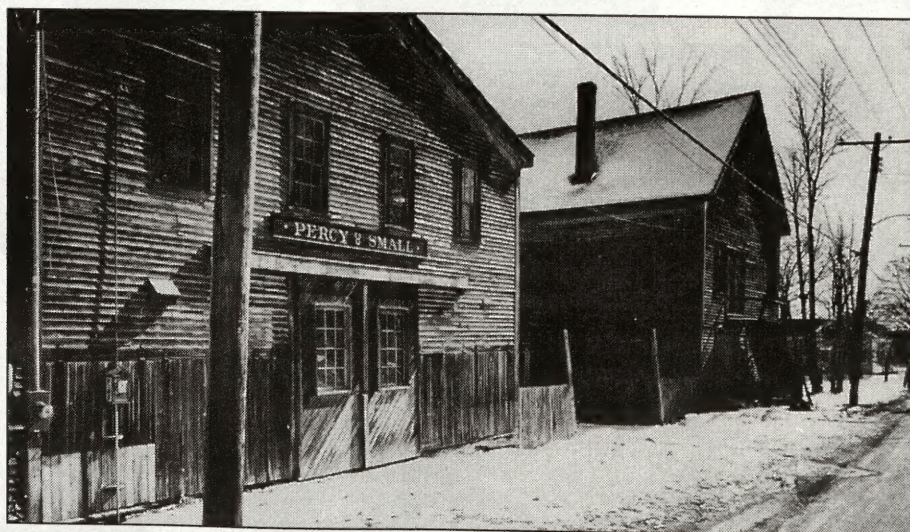
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Frank Givin, one of the seven founders of the Marine Research Society of Bath, cuts a ribbon opening the exhibits at the Winter Street Center in 1973 as Director Ralph Linwood (Lin) Snow looks on.

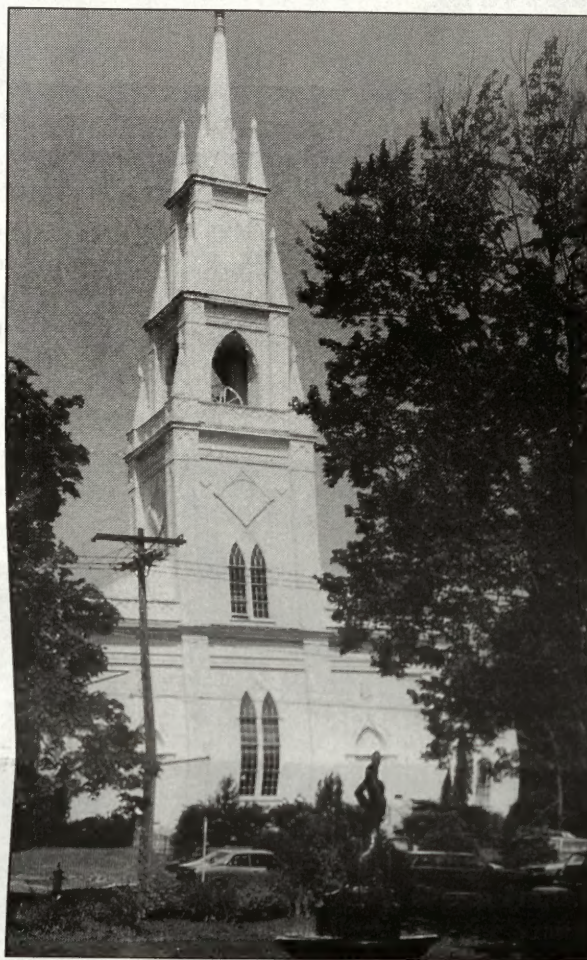


A banner event: William Avery Baker, at left, signs his newly-published two-volume work, *A Maritime History of Bath, Maine and the Kennebec River Region*, in 1973. After the untimely death of Mark Hennessy in 1965, Baker built on Hennessy's research to complete the work. The year also marked the first maritime history symposium as well as the professional landmark of accreditation by the American Association of Museums.

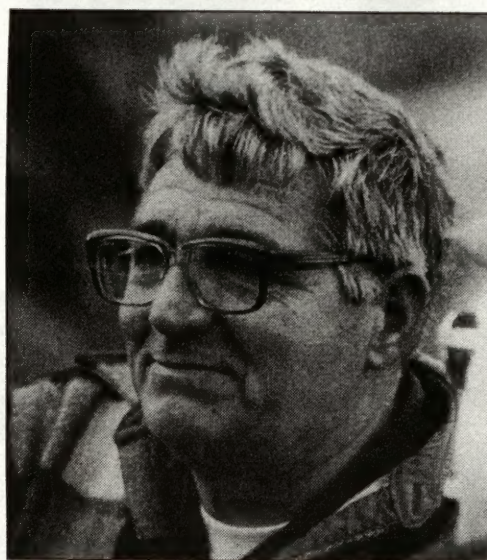


In 1975, the historic Percy & Small shipyard - the only intact shipyard in the U.S. to have built large wooden sailing vessels - was donated to the Museum by Mr. and Mrs. L.M.C. Smith, who had purchased it in 1968. The Museum opened exhibits here in 1971, and began to restore buildings to their original appearance in 1975. The acquisition of the shipyard was not without controversy, but is now highly valued as an essential part of the Museum. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 1971, a highly significant documentary archive - the papers of the Sewall family shipyard and shipping businesses - arrived at the Museum. Bruce Burr, a worker at the Hermit Island Lobster Pound and Campground, carries a box marked with the name of the ship *Kenilworth*. Once inventoried and catalogued, the Sewall papers amounted to 647 manuscript boxes of unique material.



The parish hall of the former Winter Street Congregational Church, deeded to the Museum in 1973, became the Winter Street Center with three floors of exhibits opened that same year. The sanctuary was used as an auditorium, hosting (among other events) the annual maritime history symposium.



Ralph Linwood Snow joined the Museum as its first professional director in 1972. Known as Lin, he brought new perspectives and great energy to his tenure as director through the 1970s.



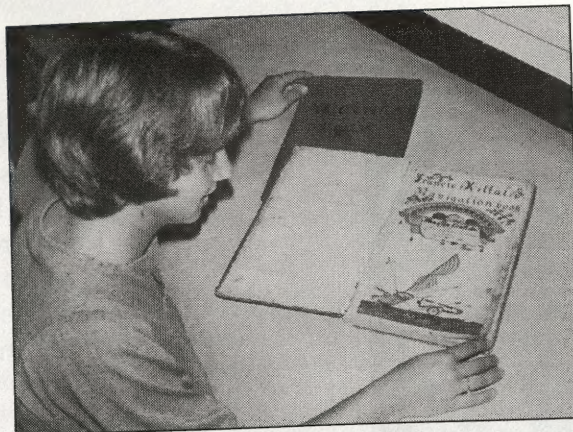
Captain of the Museum ferry and cruise boat *Sasanoa*, Glenn Svenning, surveys the river ahead with Lin Snow.



## Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1962-2002 (continued from page 5)



The Apprenticeshop, an innovative program for traditional wooden boatbuilding, launched two reconstructions of a Maine boat type, the Crotch Island pinky, in the 1970s. Lance Lee, the program's director, takes the helm of one.



Marnee Lilly took charge of museum registration in the early years. Here she examines an important acquisition of 1976 – Capt. Francis Rittal's 1805 navigation book.

At the 1975 Maritime History Symposium, keeper of the famous fishhouse punch recipe Terry Geaghan (left) greets attendees Capt. W.J.L. (Lew) Parker, David Proctor of the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, and Capt. Francis (Biff) Bowker.

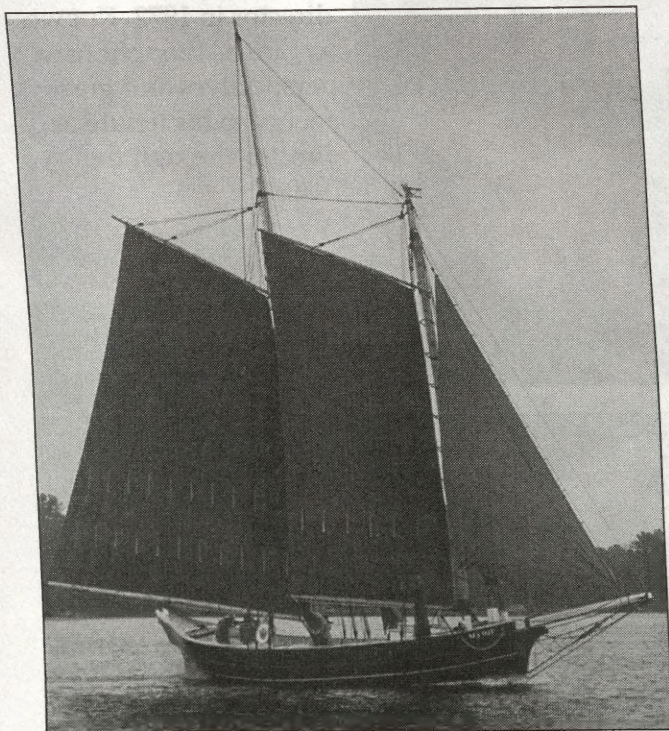


Capt. Adrian Raynaud, a Cape Horner, addresses the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Maritime History symposium in 1982.

As one of the last surviving mariners to sail a Maine-built square-rigger, he continued the yearly symposium tradition of first-hand accounts of life at sea.



Hopefully captioned "to be restored," this view of the William T. Donnell House was taken shortly after it was donated to the Museum in 1981.



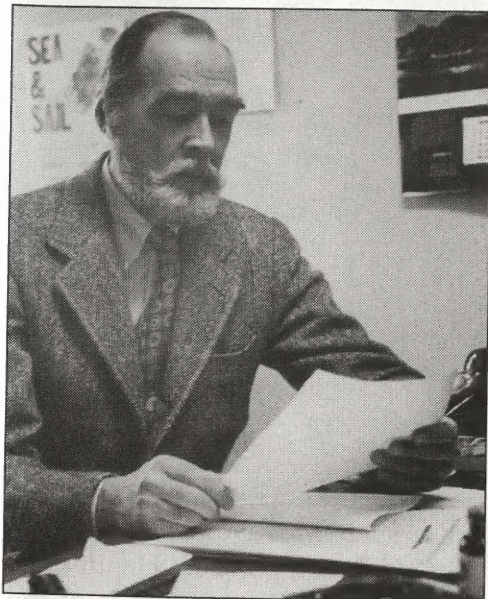
The replica pinky schooner *Maine* was launched in 1985, and continues as a sailing ambassador for the Museum. She was built by the Apprenticeshop.



Apprenticeshop director Willits Ansel, right, confers with a student while roping the workboat *Garvey*, ca. 1985.



# Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1962-2002 (continued from page 6)



George Miller served as interim director in 1981.



Trustee Charles Burden, left, has long been an indefatigable collector on behalf of the Museum. Here he shares an observation about a stoneware bottle with Director John Carter, who headed the Museum from 1982 to 1989.



John Carter, left and Capt. George McEvoy, right, prepare to officially open the new pier built as a visiting home for the schooner *Sherman Zwicker* in 1985. The pier, a reconstruction of the historic south wharf of the Percy & Small shipyard, was underwritten by the Grand Banks Schooner Heritage Trust.



Many museum volunteers took a hand in preparing the new Maritime History Building galleries for exhibit and artifact installation in 1988 and 1989.



Board chairwoman Elizabeth (Betty) Noyce leads the way into the brand-new galleries at the Grand Opening of the Maritime History Building in June 1989.



The 1989 opening of the Maritime History Building was celebrated by a gathering of sail and steam on the Kennebec. Among others, the schooners *Bowdoin*, *Summertime*, and *Ernestina* spread their sails in a scene reminiscent of earlier days along the river.



Rebecca Lovett served as the first manager of the brand-new Museum Store which opened in 1989.



A sea music gathering in 1991 featured Stan Hugill, left, the last of the square-rigged chanteymen, who belts out a line. He was joined by (left to right) Museum curator Bob Webb and members of Mystic Seaport's "Forebitter," Geoff Kaufman, Rick Spencer, and David Littlefield.



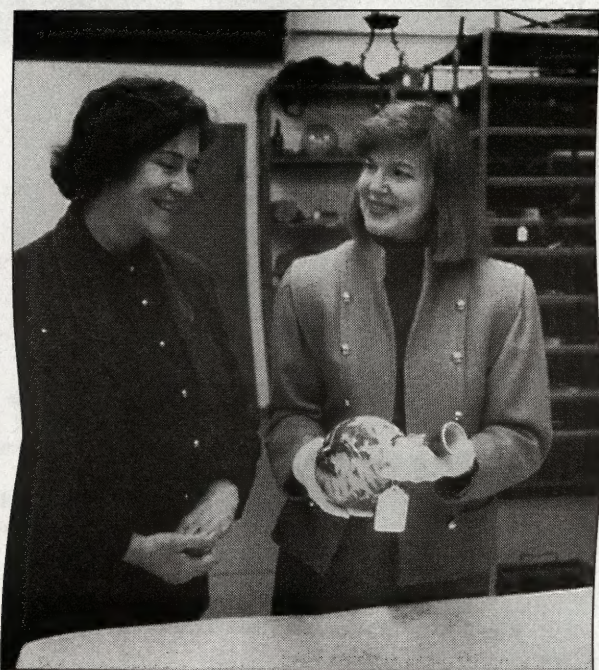
# Celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1962-2002 (continued from page 7)



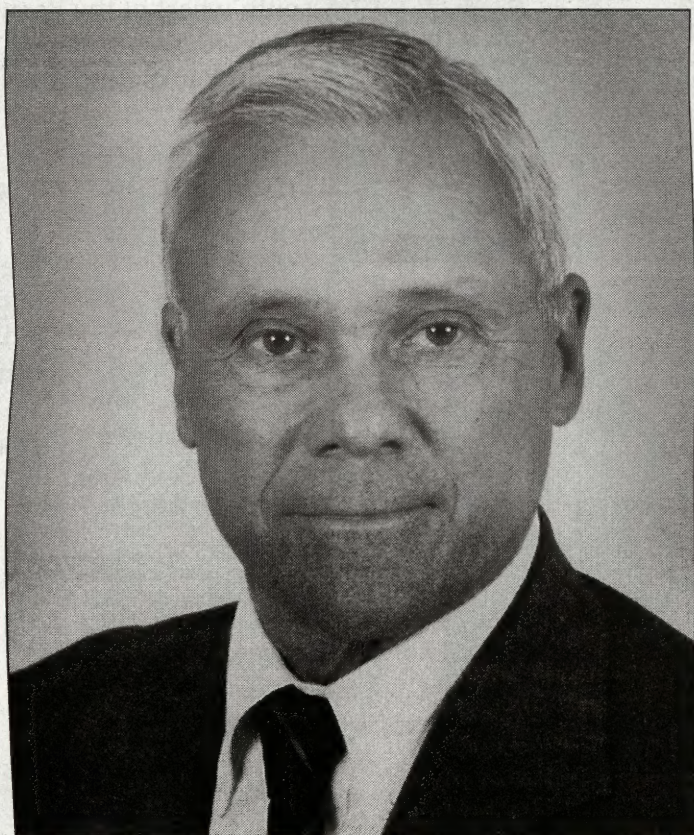
Kate Campbell, right, served as registrar and masterminded the move of collections from Sewall House to the Maritime History Building. Here she rolls oakum for caulking the pinky schooner *Maine*, along with volunteers Bud Guild and Emily Herman, in 1985.



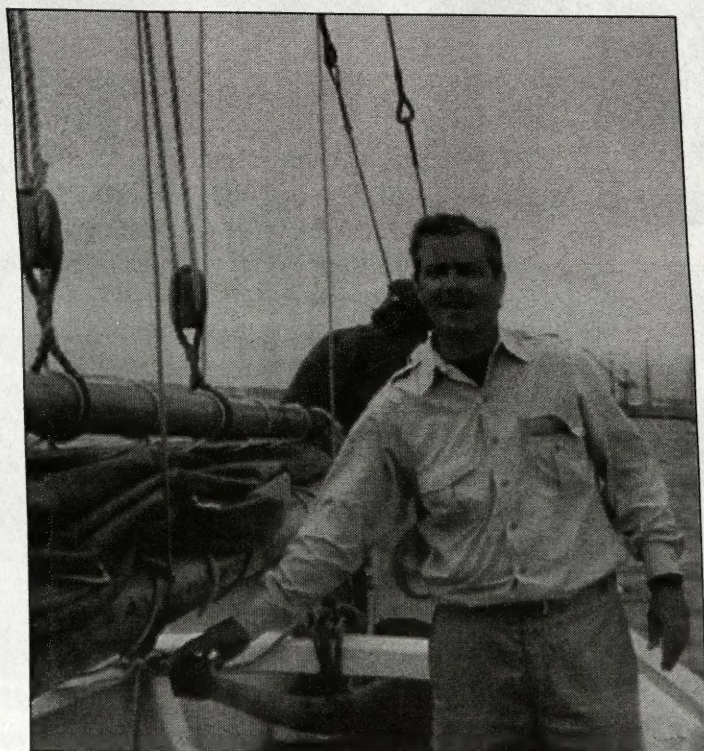
In 1992, the Museum celebrated the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of its incorporation. At a festive luncheon are Bill Mussenden, Ray Small, Frank Givin, Charlie Burden, Donald Spear, and Mel Henderson. Mssrs. Spear and Givin were the two surviving founders of the Marine Society of Bath.



Jean Weber, left, who directed the Museum from 1989 to 1993, examines ceramics from the collections with renowned ceramics scholar Arlene Palmer Schwind.



Edward (Ned) Harding, long-time supporter and member of the Board of Trustees, served as Interim Director in 1993-1994. He directed a vigorous capital campaign in 1998-1999. The subsequent building and renovation program resulted in the completion of major renovations throughout the Percy & Small shipyard buildings and exhibitions and in the construction of Long Reach Hall, a new gallery, and the Visiting Yachtsmen's building in 2000-2002.



Executive Director Tom Wilcox at the helm of the pinky MAINE. Courtesy of Jonathan White/The Times Record, Brunswick

Tom Wilcox took the Museum's helm in late 1994. During his early years with the Museum, he initiated the opening of Percy & Small shipyard for visitors through the winter, refurbished the historic William T. Donnell House and began the traditions of Quartermasters' Day and the South Bristol Discovery Boatbuilding Program. He directed the completion of the Capital Campaign Projects including the new meeting & dining facility, Long Reach Hall, additional storage space for curatorial and library collections, the Percy & Small Gallery, the new Percy & Small exhibitions, and Visiting Yachtsmen's Building. Other significant accomplishments during Tom Wilcox's leadership include the publishing of *Pattens of Bath* by Kenneth R. Martin and Ralph Linwood Snow; *A Shipyard in Maine: Percy & Small and the Great Schooners* by Ralph Linwood Snow and Capt. Douglas K. Lee; *A Doryman's Day* by R. Barry Fisher and Snow; *Squall: The Last American Clipper Ship* by Nicholas Dean.



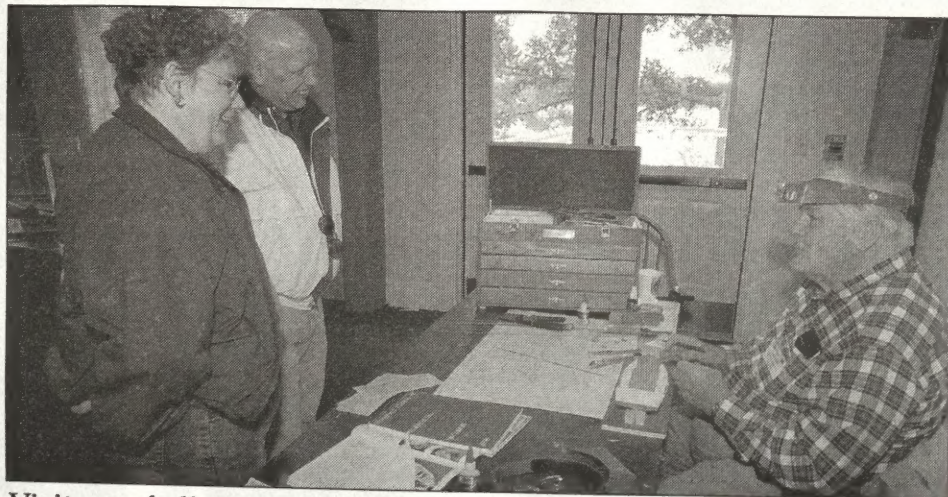
# The Times Record's Subscriber's Day at the Museum



The Times Record banner at the Museum entrance

On Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., over 100 visitors came to the Museum to enjoy *The Times Record's* Subscriber's Day.

There were seasonal craft projects and face painting by Museum staff and volunteers for the kids.



Visitors of all ages enjoyed seeing the remarkable **Downeast Ship Modeler's Exhibit** in Long Reach Hall.



Barbara Potter, Membership Secretary and Everett Perkins, Volunteer, wave from the Membership sign-up table, where free posters were offered by the newspaper.



Frank Curran, Times Record Marketing Manager, signs up for a Museum Membership with Barbara.



## The Annual Pirate's Party

In spite of a dark and stormy night (or did that make it better?) the 7th Annual Pirate's Party brought out a festively costumed pirate brigade of all ages. Percy & Small Shipyard exhibitions were cast in the glow of pieces of eight and a roaring bonfire and scary goings-on aboard our pink schooner MAINE made it an unforgettable and somewhat spooky October evening!

## Warm Up With Winter Volunteering!

MANY THANKS go to over 150 volunteers who gave thousands of hours during the busy summer & fall season, which included our regular warm weather offerings as well as special events such as *The Times Record* Subscribers Day, Quartermasters Day and Pirate's Party. Your help is much appreciated!

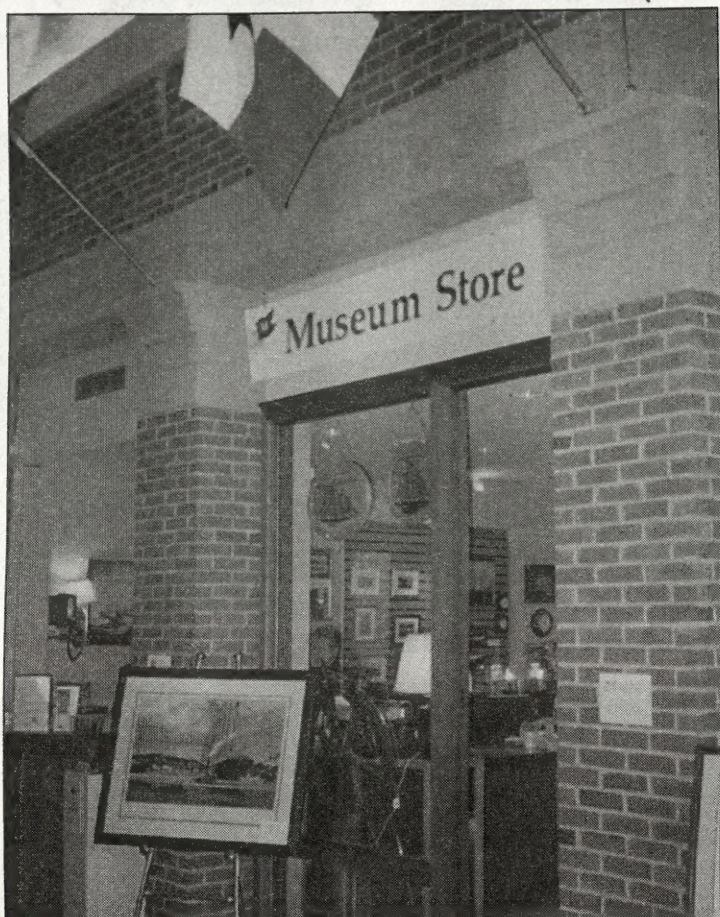
Luckily, with the change in seasons comes a much-deserved change of pace for Museum volunteers. Many will enjoy a winter hiatus after the annual Recognition Celebration on December 3, but there will still be plenty to do. Our behind-the-scenes volunteers will continue working on carpentry projects (building, painting and fixing things), cataloging books and photographs, researching and archiving artifacts, and helping with education programs.

If you're looking for a new project to while away the cold, dark days, now's your chance to help out! It's warm and inviting at the Museum! Please contact Ellen Conner in the Volunteer Coordinator's office at ext. 350 or [conner@bathmaine.com](mailto:conner@bathmaine.com).



# Look What's In Store for The Holidays!

Come in, browse and check off your Gift List while you support our Museum !



We're open DAILY from 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



We have an extensive collection of nautical books...



Gift items...colorful ties, ship models...  
And only here can you purchase handsome half-hull models made in our own Boatshop!



Clocks, barometers, knot boards, jewelry and a selection of books published by Maine Maritime Museum

## Festival of Trees

*"Family Holiday Traditions Around the World"*

Thursday, Dec. 5th 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. • Champagne reception & preview. Tickets: \$20 per person

Friday, Dec. 7th 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. • General viewing

Saturday, Dec. 7th 9:30 - 1:00 p.m. • General viewing and Mrs. Claus from 10 a.m. - 12 noon.

Tickets: \$7 for Adults; \$5 for Seniors and \$3 for Children 16 & Under

SATURDAY MORNING ADMISSION IS FREE WITH MUSEUM ADMISSION.

Tickets may be purchased at the event.

*This annual event will take place in Long Reach Hall and benefits the Bath Area Family YMCA Endowment Fund*



## Corporate Partners Program Update

Our **Corporate Partners Program** exemplifies how Museum support can offer marketing benefits for our business partners, as opposed to purely philanthropic endeavors. In exchange for critically needed help – either financial or gifts-in-kind – this Program provides a menu of marketing benefits, representing advantages to both the business and to the Museum.

The trustees, staff & volunteers at Maine Maritime Museum encourage all area businesses to consider becoming Corporate Partners. Director Tom Wilcox, extension #324 or Development Director Linda MacMillan, extension #327, will be happy to address any questions.

Their email addresses are: [wilcox@bathmaine.com](mailto:wilcox@bathmaine.com)  
[macmillan@bathmaine.com](mailto:macmillan@bathmaine.com).

### Current Corporate Partners include:

#### **Corporate DownEasters:**

Bath Iron Works  
Bath Savings Institution  
The Harraseeket Inn  
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*The Times Record*

#### **Corporate Shipwrights:**

Baker Newman & Noyes  
W.P. Stewart Asset  
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#### **Corporate Patrons:**

Henry R. Abel & Co., LLC  
Sebasco Harbor Resort

## New Website Statistics

Since the launch of our new Website [mainemaritimemuseum.org](http://mainemaritimemuseum.org) has been averaging over 10,000 sessions per month since August.

At this rate, we should exceed 100,000 sessions annually, a number many web developers hope to achieve after 1 year or more online. Take a look!

You can purchase Memberships and Museum Store items online!



## OPEN HOUSE HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

**Sunday, December 1, 2002**  
**9:30 am – 5:00 pm**

Join us for the Museum's annual Open House and Holiday celebration. On this special free day, visitors will enjoy strolling the galleries and the new Percy & Small Shipyard exhibits, listening to holiday music and sampling traditional wassail and gingerbread. Children can make holiday cards, ornaments and gifts.

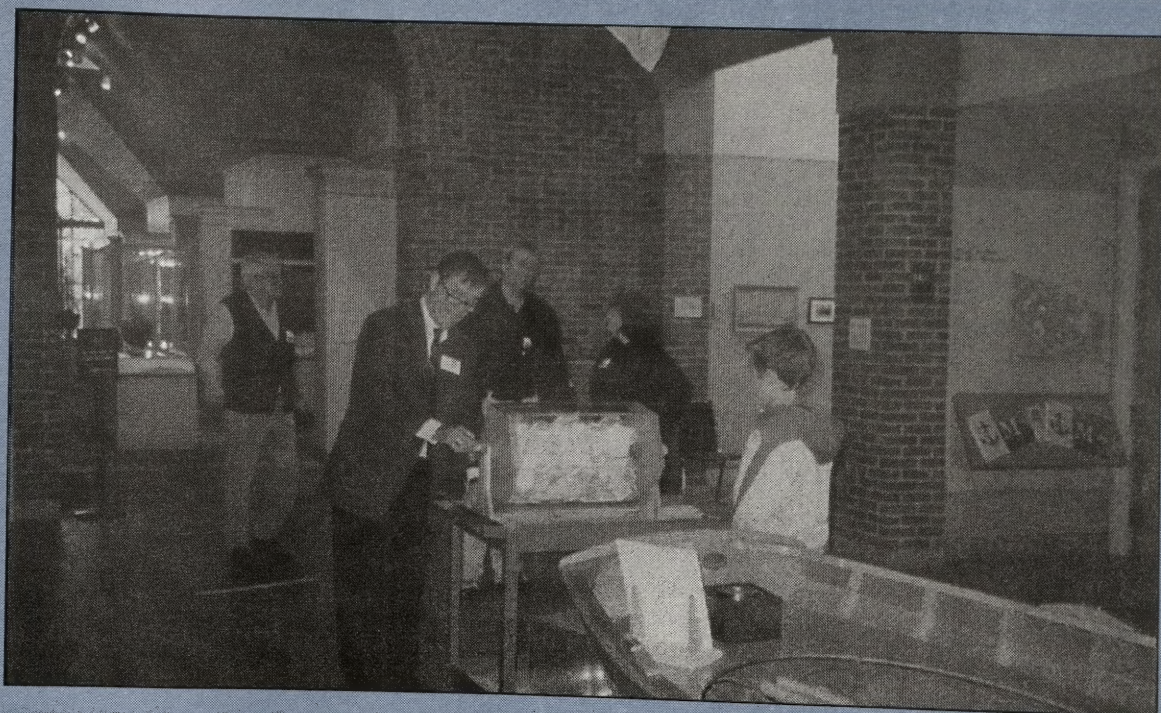
The Museum Store is now full of wonderful *Made in Maine* products, children's gifts and our continually growing collection of books. Don't miss the special **10% Off Sale on All Boat Models** in the Store on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> only!

*Why not plan to spend a relaxing Sunday and work on your Holiday gift list at the same time?*

### **Remember the Museum With a Deferred Gift**

The Museum can benefit from several Deferred Gift arrangements including Pooled Income Funds; Gift Annuities; Charitable Remainder Trusts; and gifts of Real Estate.

For information about these types of investments, please call us at 207-443-1316



## Our 2002 Boat Raffle Winner!!

Joel Klaverkamp of Silver Springs, MD was the winner of our beautiful skiff TARA, on October 15<sup>th</sup>

***Congratulations!***

*And many thanks to all those who purchased tickets in support of the Museum and the continuing operations of our Boatshop*

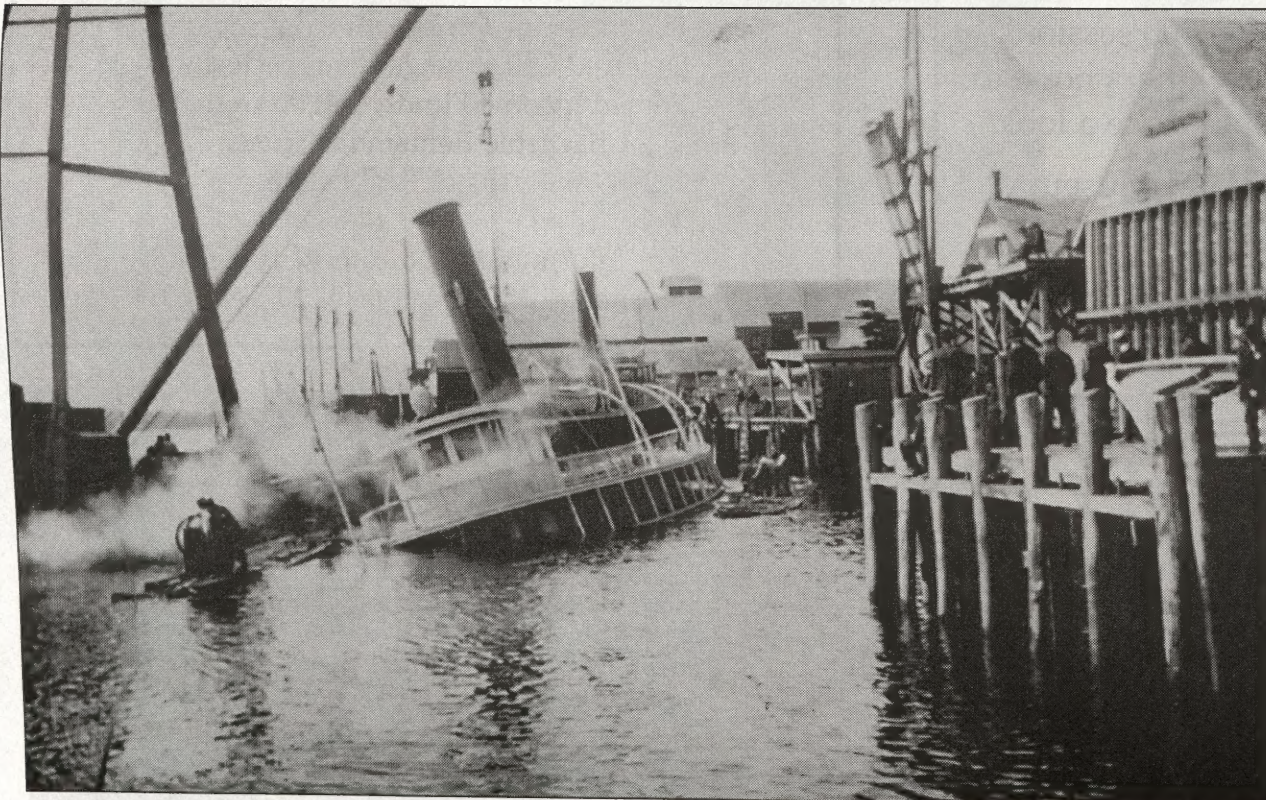


## Puzzler From The Library

**A New Puzzler:** This one is a tough one, we think. Does anyone know what shipyard this is, or roughly where this photograph was taken? It is thought to be a shipyard in Maine, but even that is somewhat doubtful. All we really know is that the picture was found in Maine. It appears to be early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Last Issue's Puzzler:** Executive Director Tom Wilcox came up with the only definite answer to our Puzzler from Issue #31. He suggested that this is an image of the sinking of the steamer *Boothbay*, which went down at the Howard Coal Company wharf in Bath in 1908. A comparison with known pictures of the accident indicate that he is right. The details of the vessel in the photograph (the ones that show above the water) also match the configuration of *Boothbay* as seen in other photographs of happier times.



Several people in the vicinity were attracted by the noise as the vessel sank at 5:30 a.m., June 1, 1908. No one was aboard. Evidently her port guard rail caught on the top of the wharf, and as the tide ebbed she tilted until water poured in her starboard deadlight. The same result can come from catching against the wharf on an incoming tide, but you can see in the picture that the vessel is leaning away from the wharf.

The photograph shows the stack of the tug *Neponset* and the equipment of the McKie Lighter Company, which made the first, unsuccessful, attempt to raise the steamer. The *Bath Daily Times* called *Boothbay* "the queen of the Boothbay division." She had been built the year before, and was being prepared for going into service at the end of June when she sank. By the time she was raised she had sustained a lot of damage, and did not return to service until the spring of 1909, when she was placed on the Blue Hill - Bar Harbor route out of Rockland. Her career was lengthy, including government service during both World Wars, at least two name changes, and being dieselized.